



# COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 2024

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Scattered moisture, primarily above average temperatures, and windy conditions were seen across the State, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor released on May 16, drought conditions were present across 9 percent of the State, down minimally from last week. Abnormally dry conditions across the State decreased almost 3 percent to just over 30 percent. Conditions improved within the San Luis Valley, while areas in the northern portion of the State were downgraded to abnormally dry. Severe drought conditions in Prowers County were unchanged from last week, and over 9 percent of the State was rated under moderate drought conditions, up from last week. Moisture was concentrated to the high country in northwestern counties. Reporters noted ongoing wolf depredation in Grand and Jackson Counties. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, snowpack in the region was 119 percent of median snowfall. Moisture was scattered in northeastern counties last week, with isolated areas receiving an inch of moisture. Reports noted stripe rust was found this week in Kit Carson and Yuma Counties, and wheat stem sawflies have begun their emergence. Conditions across the winter wheat growing area were varied, with the northeastern crop in good condition. The crop in the southeastern portion of the State was stressed due to lack of moisture. Many areas in southeastern counties received at least half an inch of moisture last week, with isolated areas having received up to 2 inches. In the San Luis Valley, rain slowed fieldwork early in the week, but provided much needed moisture to the area. Barley planting was virtually complete in the area, while planting of the potato crop made significant progress. Reporters noted that livestock were in good condition. As of May 20, 2024, snowpack in Colorado was 114 percent measured as percent of median snowfall according to the NRCS, USDA. The Southwest and San Luis Valley were 53 and 48 percent, respectively.

Alfalfa harvest progressed minimally last week, with 3 percent of the crop harvested. Planting of the barley crop was almost complete, with 95 percent of the crop planted. Barley emergence continued ahead of the previous year's pace, but behind the average with 68 percent of the crop emerged. Planting of the corn crop progressed quickly last week, with 57 percent of the intended acres reported as planted, behind the 5-year average of 63 percent. Emergence of the corn crop jumped ahead of the previous year and 5-year average, with 23 percent of the crop having emerged by week's end. Potato planting picked up across the State last week, with 69 percent of acres planted in the San Luis Valley and 55 percent reported planted across the rest of the State, both still notably behind the average. Planting of the onion and sugarbeet crop in northeastern counties continued, with 78 percent of onions and 94 percent of the sugarbeet crop planted. Stored feed supplies were rated as 7 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 21 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 41 percent average, and 58 percent light. Sheep death loss was 3 percent heavy, 75 percent average, and 22 percent light.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

| Commodity                               | Current week<br>(percent) | Previous week<br>(percent) | Previous year<br>(percent) | 5-year average<br>(percent) |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa                                 |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> cutting harvested ..... | 3                         | 1                          | 3                          | 4                           |
| Barley                                  |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 95                        | 90                         | 91                         | 95                          |
| Emerged.....                            | 68                        | 60                         | 53                         | 78                          |
| Corn                                    |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 57                        | 33                         | 56                         | 63                          |
| Emerged.....                            | 23                        | 5                          | 13                         | 21                          |
| Dry edible beans                        |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 5                         | --                         | 12                         | 4                           |
| Emerged.....                            | 1                         | NA                         | NA                         | NA                          |
| Onions                                  |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 78                        | 75                         | 81                         | 77                          |
| Potatoes inside San Luis Valley         |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 69                        | 39                         | 74                         | 83                          |
| Potatoes outside San Luis Valley        |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 55                        | 40                         | 55                         | 73                          |
| Emerged.....                            | 7                         | 4                          | 24                         | 25                          |
| Proso millet                            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 20                        | 4                          | 16                         | 12                          |
| Sorghum                                 |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 12                        | 1                          | 19                         | 12                          |
| Sugarbeets                              |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 94                        | 70                         | 72                         | 83                          |
| Emerged.....                            | 51                        | 29                         | 20                         | 33                          |
| Sunflowers                              |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Planted .....                           | 9                         | 1                          | 11                         | 8                           |
| Winter wheat                            |                           |                            |                            |                             |
| Jointing.....                           | 80                        | 68                         | 70                         | 82                          |
| Headed.....                             | 21                        | 1                          | 24                         | 21                          |
| Coloring.....                           | 1                         | NA                         | NA                         | NA                          |

NA – not available  
(-) – zero

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

|                                  | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Days suitable for fieldwork..... | 6.2          | 5.5           | 4.2           | 5.3            |
| Topsoil moisture                 | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Very short.....                  | 20           | 13            | 5             | 11             |
| Short.....                       | 22           | 28            | 14            | 23             |
| Adequate.....                    | 53           | 50            | 73            | 62             |
| Surplus.....                     | 5            | 9             | 8             | 4              |
| Subsoil moisture                 |              |               |               |                |
| Very short.....                  | 15           | 7             | 11            | 17             |
| Short.....                       | 16           | 16            | 22            | 26             |
| Adequate.....                    | 66           | 72            | 64            | 56             |
| Surplus.....                     | 3            | 5             | 3             | 1              |

NA – not available

(-) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

| Commodity         | Current week | Previous week | Previous year | 5-year average |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                   | (percent)    | (percent)     | (percent)     | (percent)      |
| Alfalfa hay       |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | 4             | 3             | 4              |
| Poor.....         | 2            | 9             | 8             | 9              |
| Fair.....         | 18           | 24            | 27            | 24             |
| Good.....         | 60           | 53            | 47            | 51             |
| Excellent.....    | 20           | 10            | 15            | 12             |
| Barley            |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | 1             | --            | 1              |
| Poor.....         | --           | 1             | --            | 3              |
| Fair.....         | 18           | 18            | 9             | 22             |
| Good.....         | 55           | 52            | 24            | 47             |
| Excellent.....    | 27           | 28            | 67            | 27             |
| Pasture and range |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | --           | 4             | 4             | 15             |
| Poor.....         | 16           | 14            | 25            | 17             |
| Fair.....         | 40           | 26            | 45            | 33             |
| Good.....         | 39           | 51            | 25            | 32             |
| Excellent.....    | 5            | 5             | 1             | 3              |
| Winter wheat      |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | 4            | 6             | 14            | 13             |
| Poor.....         | 19           | 11            | 28            | 18             |
| Fair.....         | 32           | 31            | 29            | 31             |
| Good.....         | 43           | 47            | 25            | 32             |
| Excellent.....    | 2            | 5             | 4             | 6              |
| Livestock         |              |               |               |                |
| Very poor.....    | 1            | 3             | 7             | 2              |
| Poor.....         | 4            | 5             | 17            | 8              |
| Fair.....         | 32           | 26            | 34            | 24             |
| Good.....         | 56           | 53            | 32            | 58             |
| Excellent.....    | 7            | 13            | 10            | 8              |

NA – not available

(-) – zero